

DOCKET FILE COPY ON FILE
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

RECEIVED & INSPECTED
JUL 13 2007
FCC - MAILROOM

MICHAEL C. MENTEL, *PRESIDENT*
KEVIN L. BOYCE, *PRESIDENT PRO TEM*
HEARCEL F. CRAIG
ANDREW J. GINTHER
MARYELLEN O'SHAUGHNESSY
CHARLETA B. TAVARES
PRISCILLA R. TYSON



City Hall 90 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-9015
614/645-7380 Fax 614/645-6164
columbuscitycouncil.org

CITY CLERK- Andrea Blevins, CMC
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK- Darla M. Character-Johnson

July 3, 2007

ORIGINAL

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Written *Ex Parte* Communication; WT Docket Nos. 06-150, 06-169, and 96-86; PS
Docket No. 06-229

Dear Chairman Martin:

As President of Columbus City Council and the former Public Safety Committee Chairman, I am writing to urge the Commission to support an historic opportunity to create an interoperable communications network. I am hopeful because for the first time since 9/11 we are approaching a public/private partnership that will allow us the opportunity to save lives without fear that are wireless devices are not compatible. Finally a proposal that will afford us the tools to respond faster and smarter is before the commission. We as a nation need the Commission to make the right decision and support the designation of at least 10 MHz of commercial spectrum (known as the "E Block") for a public/private broadband partnership.

Historically two major obstacles have hampered efforts to bring about a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for public safety. First, the funds simply aren't there. Second, public safety needs more spectrum than it has to make a broadband network work. Frontline Wireless' proposal solves both of these problems by providing for a buildout of the network with private capital and a doubling of spectrum available to first responders and other public safety officials when faced with emergencies. This network would be truly national in scope, serving 99 percent of the U.S. population, but through modern technology would allow local agencies substantial control.

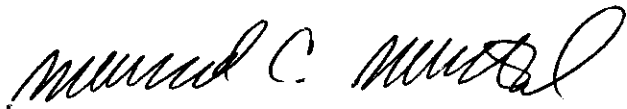
We have yet to see another plan that would create the network we need to bring public safety communications into the 21st Century. One commercial incumbent even suggested that

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

public safety's needs could be served by a network that leaves fully 25 percent of the U.S. population uncovered. That plan is certainly not the sort of "national" network that will make the American people safer and that is certainly not good enough. Six years after 9/11 and nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, the stakes are too high to succumb to these and other claims that public safety's network will have to wait for another day. The time to act is now. We implore the Commission to put the safety of our country and its citizens first and support Frontline Wireless' proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Mentel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Mentel" clearly distinguishable.

Michael C. Mentel
President, Columbus City Council